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Jin et al.

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(54) **TUNABLE ANTENNA WITH SLOT-BASED PARASITIC ELEMENT**

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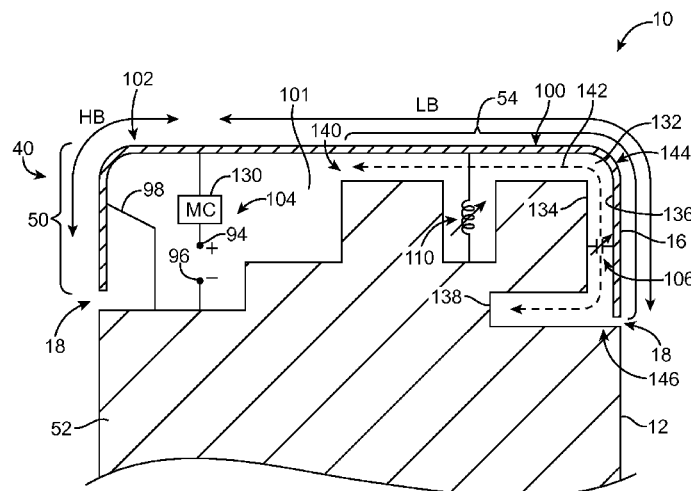
(58) **Field of Classification Search**

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See application file for complete search history.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Electronic devices may be provided that contain wireless communications circuitry. The wireless communications circuitry may include radio-frequency transceiver circuitry and antenna structures. The antenna structures may form a dual arm inverted-F antenna. The antenna may have a resonating element formed from portions of a peripheral conductive electronic device housing member and may have an antenna ground that is separated from the antenna resonating element by a gap. A short circuit path may bridge the gap. An antenna feed may be coupled across the gap in parallel with the short circuit path. Low band tuning may be provided using an adjustable inductor that bridges the gap. The antenna may have a slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element with a slot formed between portions of the peripheral conductive electronic device housing member and the antenna ground. An adjustable capacitor may bridge the slot to provide high band tuning.

25 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets



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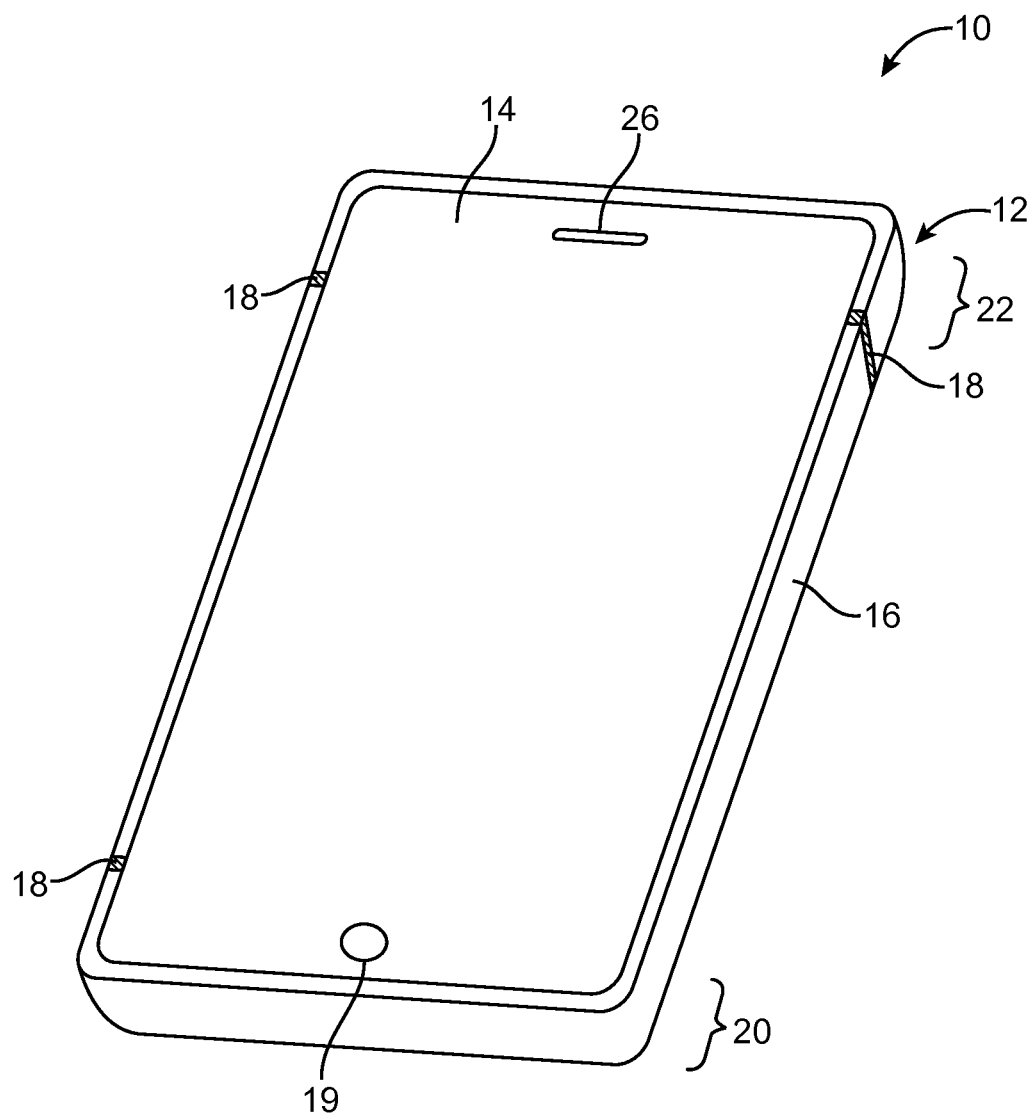


FIG. 1

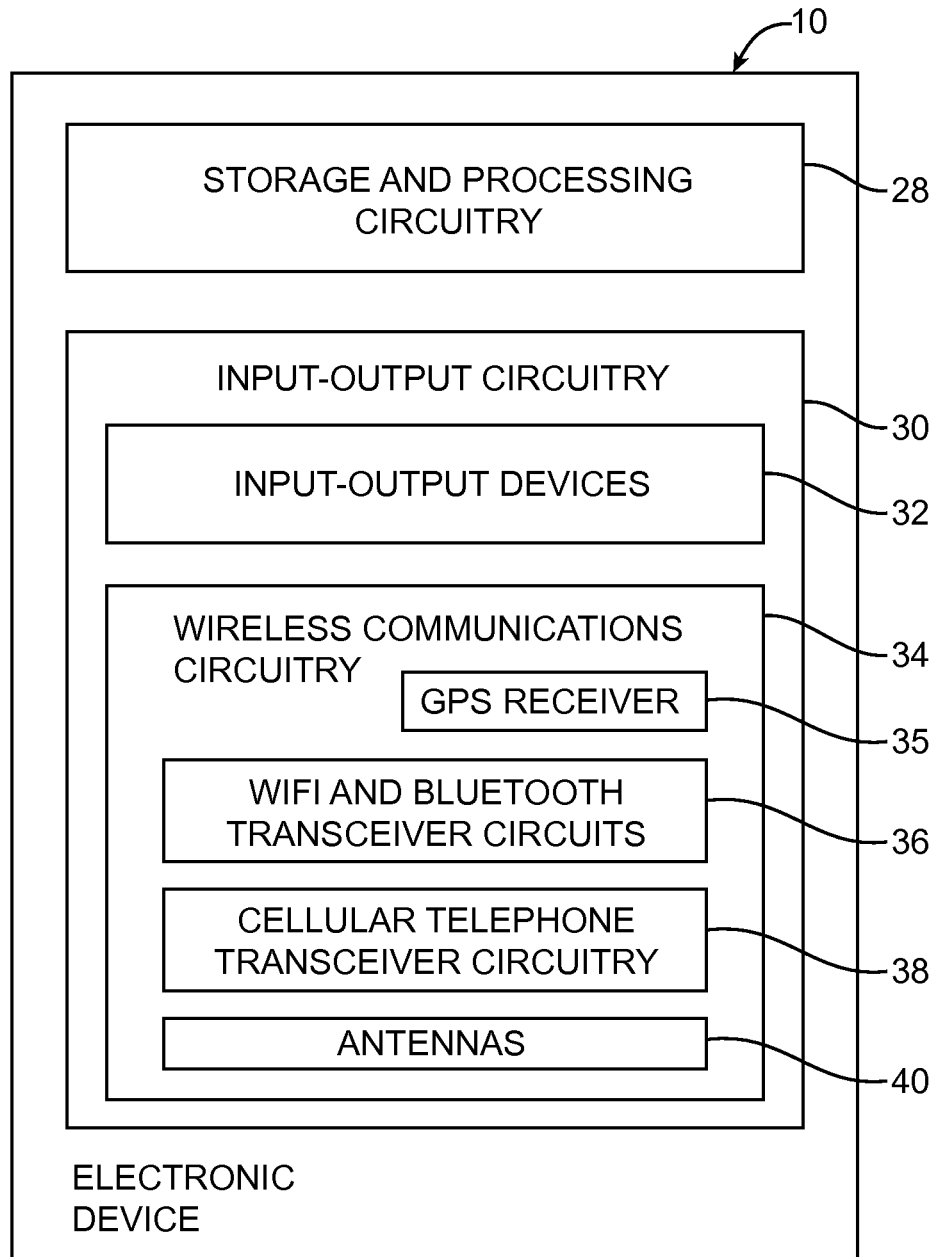


FIG. 2

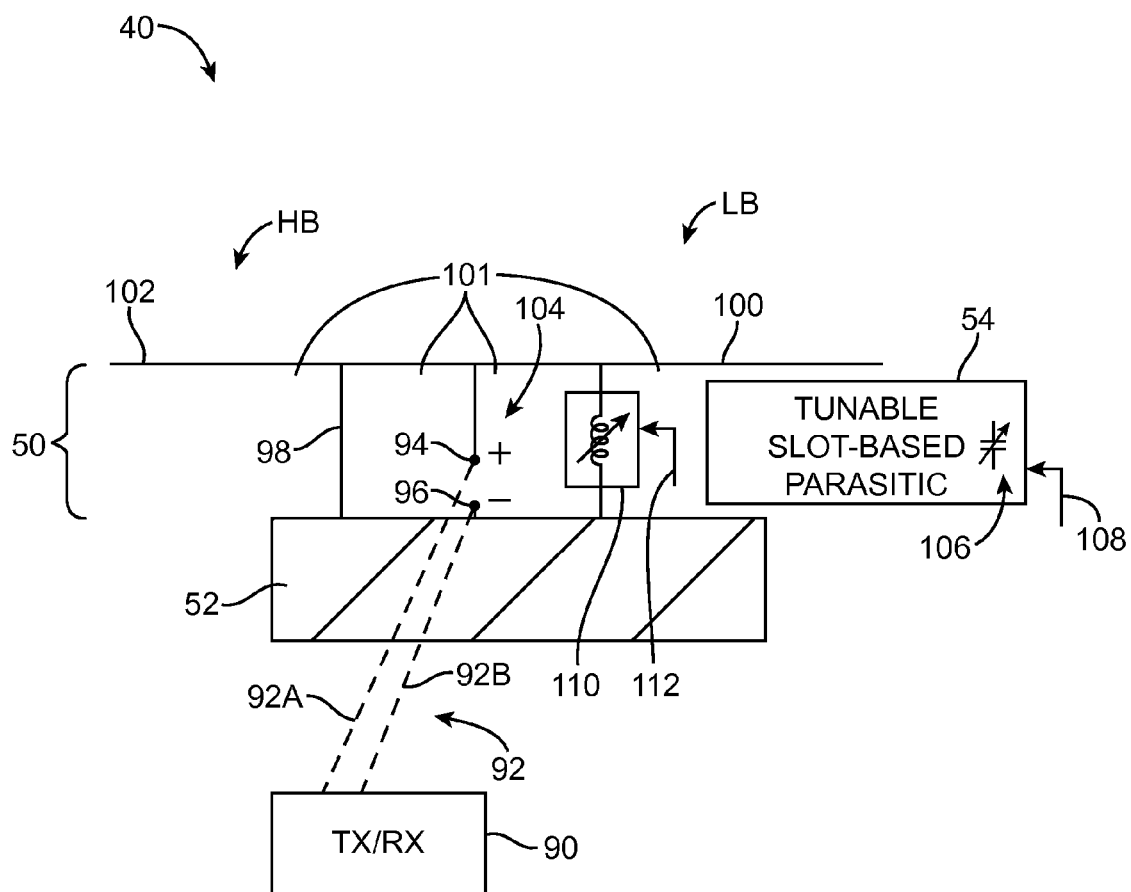


FIG. 3

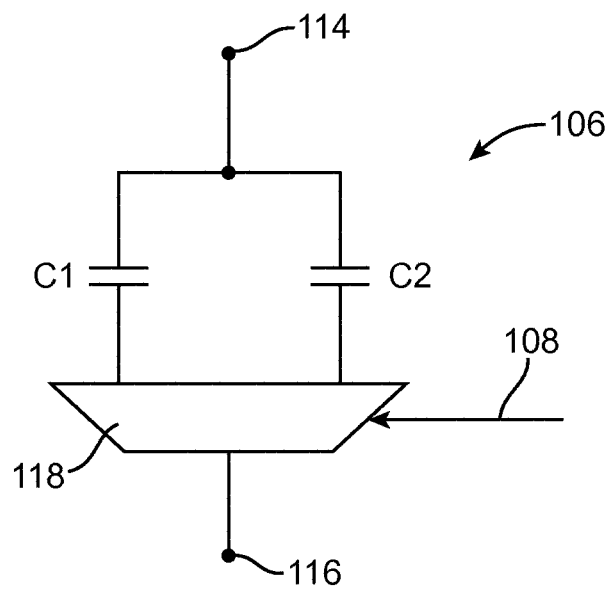


FIG. 4

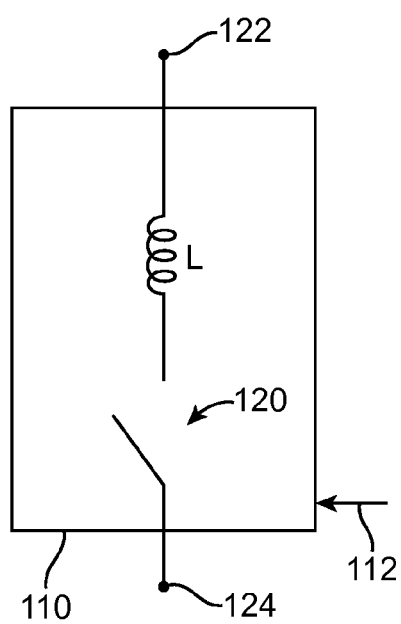


FIG. 5

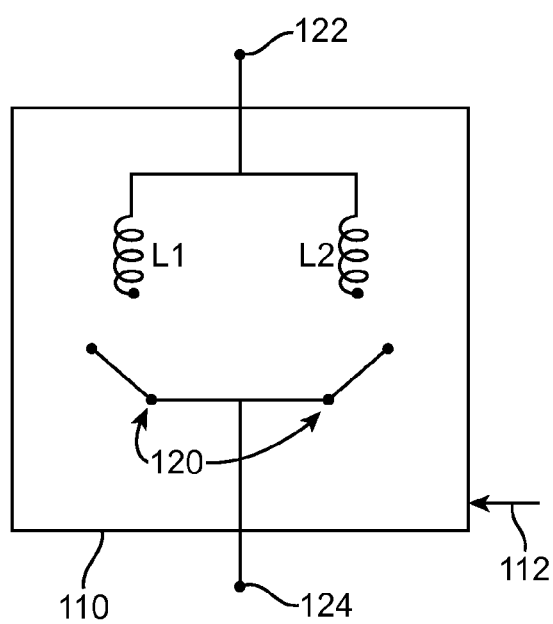


FIG. 6

FIG. 7

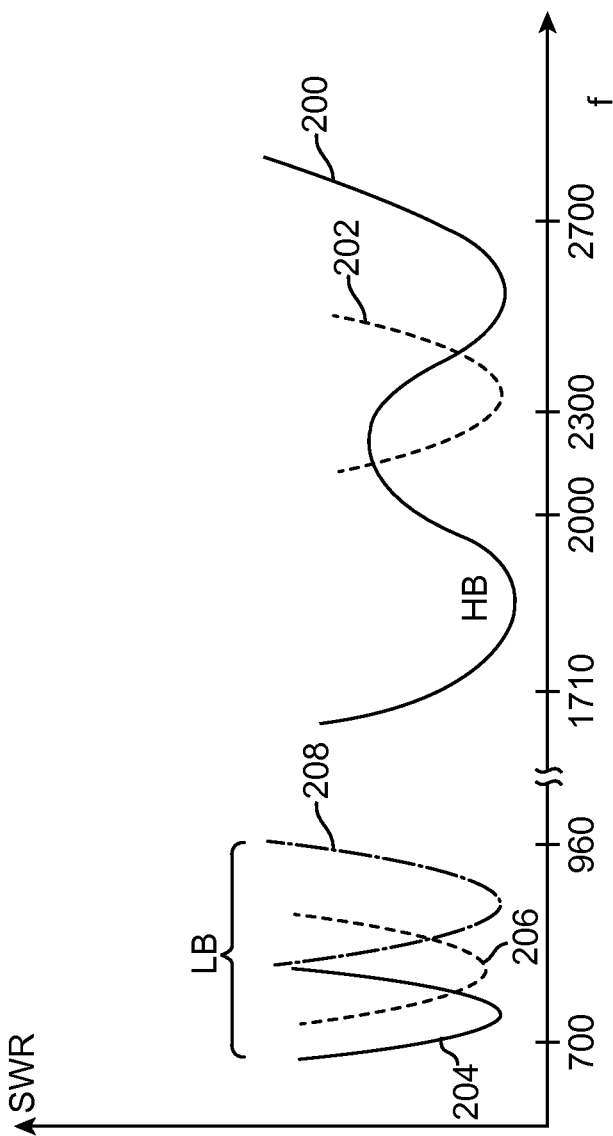


FIG. 8

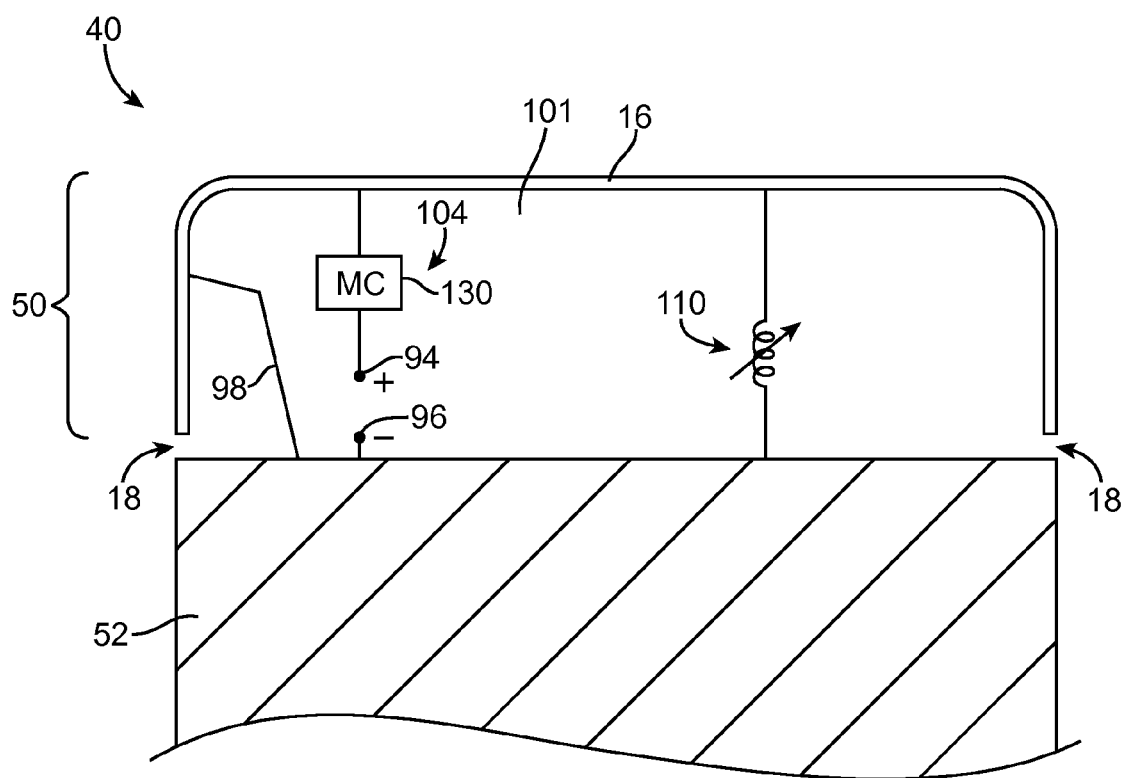


FIG. 9

TUNABLE ANTENNA WITH SLOT-BASED PARASITIC ELEMENT

BACKGROUND

This relates generally to electronic devices, and more particularly, to antennas for electronic devices with wireless communications circuitry.

Electronic devices such as portable computers and cellular telephones are often provided with wireless communications capabilities. For example, electronic devices may use long-range wireless communications circuitry such as cellular telephone circuitry to communicate using cellular telephone bands. Electronic devices may use short-range wireless communications circuitry such as wireless local area network communications circuitry to handle communications with nearby equipment. Electronic devices may also be provided with satellite navigation system receivers and other wireless circuitry.

To satisfy consumer demand for small form factor wireless devices, manufacturers are continually striving to implement wireless communications circuitry such as antenna components using compact structures. At the same time, it may be desirable to include conductive structures in an electronic device such as metal device housing components. Because conductive components can affect radio-frequency performance, care must be taken when incorporating antennas into an electronic device that includes conductive structures. Moreover, care must be taken to ensure that the antennas and wireless circuitry in a device are able to exhibit satisfactory performance over a range of operating frequencies.

It would therefore be desirable to be able to provide improved wireless communications circuitry for wireless electronic devices.

SUMMARY

Electronic devices may be provided that contain wireless communications circuitry. The wireless communications circuitry may include radio-frequency transceiver circuitry and antenna structures. The antenna structures may form a dual arm inverted-F antenna. The transceiver circuitry may be coupled to the dual arm inverted-F antenna by a transmission line.

The antenna may have a dual arm inverted-F antenna resonating element formed from portions of a peripheral conductive electronic device housing structure and may have an antenna ground that is separated from the antenna resonating element by a gap. A short circuit path may bridge the gap. An antenna feed may be coupled across the gap in parallel with the short circuit path.

Low band tuning may be provided using an adjustable inductor that bridges the gap. The adjustable inductor may include a series of fixed inductors and switching circuitry that is configured to tune the antenna by switching a selected one of the fixed inductors into use.

The antenna may have a slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element with a slot that is formed between portions of the peripheral conductive electronic device housing member and the antenna ground. An adjustable capacitor may bridge the slot to provide high band tuning.

Further features of the invention, its nature and various advantages will be more apparent from the accompanying drawings and the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an illustrative electronic device with wireless communications circuitry in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of an illustrative electronic device with wireless communications circuitry in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a diagram of an illustrative tunable antenna in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a diagram of an illustrative adjustable capacitor of the type that may be used in tuning an antenna in an electronic device in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5 is a diagram of an illustrative adjustable single-element inductor that may be used in tuning an antenna in an electronic device in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 6 is a diagram of an illustrative adjustable multi-element inductor in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 7 is a diagram of an illustrative tunable electronic device antenna having an antenna resonating element that is formed from a portion of a peripheral conductive housing member and having a slot-based parasitic resonating element and tuning capabilities provided by adjustable inductor and adjustable capacitor circuitry in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 8 is a graph of antenna performance as a function of frequency for a tunable antenna of the type shown in FIG. 7 in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 9 is a diagram of an illustrative tunable electronic device antenna having an antenna resonating element that is formed from a portion of a peripheral conductive housing member and having tuning capabilities provided by an adjustable inductor in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Electronic devices such as electronic device 10 of FIG. 1 may be provided with wireless communications circuitry. The wireless communications circuitry may be used to support wireless communications in multiple wireless communications bands. The wireless communications circuitry may include one or more antennas.

The antennas can include loop antennas, inverted-F antennas, strip antennas, planar inverted-F antennas, slot antennas, hybrid antennas that include antenna structures of more than one type, or other suitable antennas. Conductive structures for the antennas may, if desired, be formed from conductive electronic device structures. The conductive electronic device structures may include conductive housing structures. The housing structures may include peripheral structures such as a peripheral conductive member that runs around the periphery of an electronic device. The peripheral conductive member may serve as a bezel for a planar structure such as a display, may serve as sidewall structures for a device housing, and/or may form other housing structures. Gaps in the peripheral conductive member may be associated with the antennas.

Electronic device 10 may be a portable electronic device or other suitable electronic device. For example, electronic device 10 may be a laptop computer, a tablet computer, a somewhat smaller device such as a wrist-watch device, pendant device, headphone device, earpiece device, or other wearable or miniature device, a cellular telephone, or a media player. Device 10 may also be a television, a set-top box, a

desktop computer, a computer monitor into which a computer has been integrated, or other suitable electronic equipment.

Device **10** may include a housing such as housing **12**. Housing **12**, which may sometimes be referred to as a case, may be formed of plastic, glass, ceramics, fiber composites, metal (e.g., stainless steel, aluminum, etc.), other suitable materials, or a combination of these materials. In some situations, parts of housing **12** may be formed from dielectric or other low-conductivity material. In other situations, housing **12** or at least some of the structures that make up housing **12** may be formed from metal elements.

Device **10** may, if desired, have a display such as display **14**. Display **14** may, for example, be a touch screen that incorporates capacitive touch electrodes. Display **14** may include image pixels formed from light-emitting diodes (LEDs), organic LEDs (OLEDs), plasma cells, electrowetting pixels, electrophoretic pixels, liquid crystal display (LCD) components, or other suitable image pixel structures. A cover glass layer may cover the surface of display **14**. Buttons such as button **19** may pass through openings in the cover glass. The cover glass may also have other openings such as an opening for speaker port **26**.

Housing **12** may include peripheral housing structures such as structures **16**. Structures **16** may run around the periphery of device **10** and display **14**. In configurations in which device **10** and display **14** have a rectangular shape, structures **16** may be implemented using a peripheral housing member have a rectangular ring shape (as an example). Peripheral structures **16** or part of peripheral structures **16** may serve as a bezel for display **14** (e.g., a cosmetic trim that surrounds all four sides of display **14** and/or helps hold display **14** to device **10**). Peripheral structures **16** may also, if desired, form sidewall structures for device **10** (e.g., by forming a metal band with vertical sidewalls, etc.).

Peripheral housing structures **16** may be formed of a conductive material such as metal and may therefore sometimes be referred to as peripheral conductive housing structures, conductive housing structures, peripheral metal structures, or a peripheral conductive housing member (as examples). Peripheral housing structures **16** may be formed from a metal such as stainless steel, aluminum, or other suitable materials. One, two, or more than two separate structures may be used in forming peripheral housing structures **16**.

It is not necessary for peripheral housing structures **16** to have a uniform cross-section. For example, the top portion of peripheral housing structures **16** may, if desired, have an inwardly protruding lip that helps hold display **14** in place. If desired, the bottom portion of peripheral housing structures **16** may also have an enlarged lip (e.g., in the plane of the rear surface of device **10**). In the example of FIG. 1, peripheral housing structures **16** have substantially straight vertical sidewalls. This is merely illustrative. The sidewalls formed by peripheral housing structures **16** may be curved or may have other suitable shapes. In some configurations (e.g., when peripheral housing structures **16** serve as a bezel for display **14**), peripheral housing structures **16** may run around the lip of housing **12** (i.e., peripheral housing structures **16** may cover only the edge of housing **12** that surrounds display **14** and not the rest of the sidewalls of housing **12**).

If desired, housing **12** may have a conductive rear surface. For example, housing **12** may be formed from a metal such as stainless steel or aluminum. The rear surface of housing **12** may lie in a plane that is parallel to display **14**. In configurations for device **10** in which the rear surface of housing **12** is formed from metal, it may be desirable to form parts of peripheral conductive housing structures **16** as integral portions of the housing structures forming the rear surface of

housing **12**. For example, a rear housing wall of device **10** may be formed from a planar metal structure and portions of peripheral housing structures **16** on the left and right sides of housing **12** may be formed as vertically extending integral metal portions of the planar metal structure. Housing structures such as these may, if desired, be machined from a block of metal.

Display **14** may include conductive structures such as an array of capacitive electrodes, conductive lines for addressing pixel elements, driver circuits, etc. Housing **12** may include internal structures such as metal frame members, a planar housing member (sometimes referred to as a midplate) that spans the walls of housing **12** (i.e., a substantially rectangular sheet formed from one or more parts that is welded or otherwise connected between opposing sides of member **16**), printed circuit boards, and other internal conductive structures. These conductive structures may be located in the center of housing **12** under display **14** (as an example).

In regions **22** and **20**, openings may be formed within the conductive structures of device **10** (e.g., between peripheral conductive housing structures **16** and opposing conductive structures such as conductive housing midplate or rear housing wall structures, a conductive ground plane associated with a printed circuit board, and conductive electrical components in device **10**). These openings, which may sometimes be referred to as gaps, may be filled with air, plastic, and other dielectrics. Conductive housing structures and other conductive structures in device **10** may serve as a ground plane for the antennas in device **10**. The openings in regions **20** and **22** may serve as slots in open or closed slot antennas, may serve as a central dielectric region that is surrounded by a conductive path of materials in a loop antenna, may serve as a space that separates an antenna resonating element such as a strip antenna resonating element or an inverted-F antenna resonating element from the ground plane, may contribute to the performance of a parasitic antenna resonating element, or may otherwise serve as part of antenna structures formed in regions **20** and **22**.

In general, device **10** may include any suitable number of antennas (e.g., one or more, two or more, three or more, four or more, etc.). The antennas in device **10** may be located at opposing first and second ends of an elongated device housing, along one or more edges of a device housing, in the center of a device housing, in other suitable locations, or in one or more of such locations. The arrangement of FIG. 1 is merely illustrative.

Portions of peripheral housing structures **16** may be provided with gap structures. For example, peripheral housing structures **16** may be provided with one or more gaps such as gaps **18**, as shown in FIG. 1. The gaps in peripheral housing structures **16** may be filled with dielectric such as polymer, ceramic, glass, air, other dielectric materials, or combinations of these materials. Gaps **18** may divide peripheral housing structures **16** into one or more peripheral conductive segments. There may be, for example, two peripheral conductive segments in peripheral housing structures **16** (e.g., in an arrangement with two gaps), three peripheral conductive segments (e.g., in an arrangement with three gaps), four peripheral conductive segments (e.g., in an arrangement with four gaps, etc.). The segments of peripheral conductive housing structures **16** that are formed in this way may form parts of antennas in device **10**.

In a typical scenario, device **10** may have upper and lower antennas (as an example). An upper antenna may, for example, be formed at the upper end of device **10** in region **22**. A lower antenna may, for example, be formed at the lower end of device **10** in region **20**. The antennas may be used sepa-

rately to cover identical communications bands, overlapping communications bands, or separate communications bands. The antennas may be used to implement an antenna diversity scheme or a multiple-input-multiple-output (MIMO) antenna scheme.

Antennas in device 10 may be used to support any communications bands of interest. For example, device 10 may include antenna structures for supporting local area network communications, voice and data cellular telephone communications, global positioning system (GPS) communications or other satellite navigation system communications, Bluetooth® communications, etc.

A schematic diagram of an illustrative configuration that may be used for electronic device 10 is shown in FIG. 2. As shown in FIG. 2, electronic device 10 may include control circuitry such as storage and processing circuitry 28. Storage and processing circuitry 28 may include storage such as hard disk drive storage, nonvolatile memory (e.g., flash memory or other electrically-programmable-read-only memory configured to form a solid state drive), volatile memory (e.g., static or dynamic random-access-memory), etc. Processing circuitry in storage and processing circuitry 28 may be used to control the operation of device 10. The processing circuitry may be based on one or more microprocessors, microcontrollers, digital signal processors, baseband processors, power management units, audio codec chips, application specific integrated circuits, etc.

Storage and processing circuitry 28 may be used to run software on device 10, such as internet browsing applications, voice-over-internet-protocol (VOIP) telephone call applications, email applications, media playback applications, operating system functions, etc. To support interactions with external equipment, storage and processing circuitry 28 may be used in implementing communications protocols. Communications protocols that may be implemented using storage and processing circuitry 28 include internet protocols, wireless local area network protocols (e.g., IEEE 802.11 protocols—sometimes referred to as WiFi®), protocols for other short-range wireless communications links such as the Bluetooth® protocol, cellular telephone protocols, etc.

Circuitry 28 may be configured to implement control algorithms that control the use of antennas in device 10. For example, circuitry 28 may perform signal quality monitoring operations, sensor monitoring operations, and other data gathering operations and may, in response to the gathered data and information on which communications bands are to be used in device 10, control which antenna structures within device 10 are being used to receive and process data and/or may adjust one or more switches, tunable elements, or other adjustable circuits in device 10 to adjust antenna performance. As an example, circuitry 28 may control which of two or more antennas is being used to receive incoming radio-frequency signals, may control which of two or more antennas is being used to transmit radio-frequency signals, may control the process of routing incoming data streams over two or more antennas in device 10 in parallel, may tune an antenna to cover a desired communications band, etc. In performing these control operations, circuitry 28 may open and close switches, may turn on and off receivers and transmitters, may adjust impedance matching circuits, may configure switches in front-end-module (FEM) radio-frequency circuits that are interposed between radio-frequency transceiver circuitry and antenna structures (e.g., filtering and switching circuits used for impedance matching and signal routing), may adjust switches, tunable circuits, and other adjustable circuit elements that are formed as part of an antenna or that are coupled

to an antenna or a signal path associated with an antenna, and may otherwise control and adjust the components of device 10.

Input-output circuitry 30 may be used to allow data to be supplied to device 10 and to allow data to be provided from device 10 to external devices. Input-output circuitry 30 may include input-output devices 32. Input-output devices 32 may include touch screens, buttons, joysticks, click wheels, scrolling wheels, touch pads, key pads, keyboards, microphones, speakers, tone generators, vibrators, cameras, sensors, light-emitting diodes and other status indicators, data ports, etc. A user can control the operation of device 10 by supplying commands through input-output devices 32 and may receive status information and other output from device 10 using the output resources of input-output devices 32.

Wireless communications circuitry 34 may include radio-frequency (RF) transceiver circuitry formed from one or more integrated circuits, power amplifier circuitry, low-noise input amplifiers, passive RF components, one or more antennas, and other circuitry for handling RF wireless signals. Wireless signals can also be sent using light (e.g., using infrared communications).

Wireless communications circuitry 34 may include satellite navigation system receiver circuitry such as Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver circuitry 35 (e.g., for receiving satellite positioning signals at 1575 MHz) or satellite navigation system receiver circuitry associated with other satellite navigation systems. Wireless local area network transceiver circuitry such as transceiver circuitry 36 may handle 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands for WiFi® (IEEE 802.11) communications and may handle the 2.4 GHz Bluetooth® communications band. Circuitry 34 may use cellular telephone transceiver circuitry 38 for handling wireless communications in cellular telephone bands such as bands in frequency ranges of about 700 MHz to about 2700 MHz or bands at higher or lower frequencies. Wireless communications circuitry 34 can include circuitry for other short-range and long-range wireless links if desired. For example, wireless communications circuitry 34 may include wireless circuitry for receiving radio and television signals, paging circuits, etc. Near field communications may also be supported (e.g., at 13.56 MHz). In WiFi® and Bluetooth® links and other short-range wireless links, wireless signals are typically used to convey data over tens or hundreds of feet. In cellular telephone links and other long-range links, wireless signals are typically used to convey data over thousands of feet or miles.

Wireless communications circuitry 34 may include one or more antennas 40. Antennas 40 may be formed using any suitable antenna types. For example, antennas 40 may include antennas with resonating elements that are formed from loop antenna structures, patch antenna structures, inverted-F antenna structures, dual arm inverted-F antenna structures, closed and open slot antenna structures, planar inverted-F antenna structures, helical antenna structures, strip antennas, monopoles, dipoles, hybrids of these designs, etc. Different types of antennas may be used for different bands and combinations of bands. For example, one type of antenna may be used in forming a local wireless link antenna and another type of antenna may be used in forming a remote wireless link. Antenna structures in device 10 such as one or more of antennas 40 may be provided with one or more antenna feeds, fixed and/or adjustable components, and optional parasitic antenna resonating elements so that the antenna structures cover desired communications bands.

An illustrative antenna of the type that may be used in device 10 (e.g., in region 20 and/or region 22) is shown in FIG. 3. The illustrative antenna of FIG. 3 uses a design of the

type that is sometimes referred to as a dual arm inverted-F antenna or T antenna. As shown in FIG. 3, antenna 40 may have conductive antenna structures such as dual arm inverted-F antenna resonating element 50, optional parasitic antenna resonating element 54, and antenna ground 52. The conductive structures that form antenna resonating element 50, parasitic antenna resonating element 54, and antenna ground 52 may be formed from parts of conductive housing structures, from parts of electrical device components in device 10, from printed circuit board traces, from strips of conductor such as strips of wire and metal foil, or other conductive materials.

As shown in FIG. 3, transceiver circuitry 90 may be coupled to antenna 40 using transmission line structures such as transmission line 92. Transmission line 92 may have positive signal path 92A and ground signal path 92B. Paths 92A and 92B may be formed from metal traces on rigid printed circuit boards, may be formed from metal traces on flexible printed circuits, may be formed on dielectric support structures such as plastic, glass, and ceramic members, may be formed as part of a cable, etc. Transmission line 92 may be formed using one or more microstrip transmission lines, stripline transmission lines, edge coupled microstrip transmission lines, edge coupled stripline transmission lines, coaxial cables, or other suitable transmission line structures. Circuits such as impedance matching circuits, filters, switches, duplexers, diplexers, and other circuitry may, if desired, be interposed in transmission line path 92.

Transmission line 92 may be coupled to an antenna feed formed from antenna feed terminals such as positive antenna feed terminal 94 and ground antenna feed terminal 96. Antenna resonating element 50 may include a short circuit branch such as branch 98 that couples resonating element arm structures such as arms 100 and 102 to antenna ground 52. Dielectric gap 101 separates arms 100 and 102 from antenna ground 52. Antenna ground 52 may be formed from housing structures such as a metal midplate member, printed circuit traces, metal portions of electronic components, or other conductive ground structures. Gap 101 may be formed by air, plastic, and other dielectric materials. Feed path 104 contains the antenna feed formed from feed terminals 94 and 96 and is coupled between the resonating element arm structures and antenna ground 52 in parallel with short circuit path 98. Resonating element arms 100 and 102 may have one or more bends. The illustrative arrangement of FIG. 3 in which arms 100 and 102 run parallel to ground 52 is merely illustrative.

Low-band arm 100 may allow antenna 40 to exhibit an antenna resonance at low band (LB) frequencies (e.g., 700 MHz to 960 MHz or other suitable frequencies). High-band arm 102 may allow antenna 40 to exhibit one or more antenna resonances at high band (HB) frequencies (e.g., resonances at frequencies between 960 MHz to 2700 MHz or other suitable frequencies).

If desired, antenna 40 may include optional parasitic antenna resonating elements such as parasitic antenna resonating element 54. Parasitic antenna resonating element 54 is coupled to antenna resonating element 50 by near-field electromagnetic coupling and is used to modify the frequency response of antenna 40 so that antenna 40 operates at desired frequencies.

In the example of FIG. 3, parasitic antenna resonating element 54 is based on a slot antenna resonating element structure. Slot-type resonating element structures may include open slot structures (i.e., slots with one open end and one closed end) and closed slot structures (i.e., slots that are completely surrounded by metal). Slots for a slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element may be formed between

opposing metal structures in antenna resonating element 50 and/or antenna ground 52. Plastic, air, or other dielectric may fill the interior of a slot. Slots are typically elongated (i.e., their lengths are substantially longer than their widths). Metal surrounds the periphery of the slot. In an open slot, one of the ends of the slot is open to surrounding dielectric.

To provide antenna 40 with tuning capabilities, antenna 40 may include adjustable circuitry. The adjustable circuitry may form part of antenna resonating element 50, optional parasitic antenna resonating element 54, or the structures of antenna ground 52.

As shown in FIG. 3, for example, parasitic antenna resonating element 54 may be a tunable parasitic resonating element that includes adjustable circuitry such as adjustable capacitor 106. The adjustable circuitry of tunable slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element 54 such as adjustable capacitor 106 may be tuned using control signals from control circuitry 28 (FIG. 2). Control signals from control circuitry 28 may, for example, be provided to tunable slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element using control input path 108 to adjust the capacitance exhibited by adjustable capacitor 106. By selecting a desired capacitance value for capacitor 106 using control signals on path 108, antenna 40 can be tuned to cover operating frequencies of interest.

If desired, the adjustable circuitry of antenna 40 may include one or more adjustable circuits that are coupled to antenna resonating element structures 50 such as arms 102 and 100 in antenna resonating element 50. As shown in FIG. 3, for example, adjustable inductor 110 may be coupled between antenna resonating element arm structures in antenna 40 such as arm 100 (or arm 102) and antenna ground 52 (i.e., inductor 110 may bridge gap 101). Adjustable inductor 110 may exhibit an inductance value that is adjusted in response to control signals provided to control input 112 of adjustable inductor 110 from control circuitry 28.

During operation of device 10, control circuitry such as storage and processing circuitry 28 of FIG. 2 may make antenna adjustments by providing control signals to adjustable components such as adjustable inductors, adjustable capacitors, adjustable resistors, switches, switches in adjustable inductors, adjustable capacitors, and adjustable resistors, adjustable components such as variable inductors, varactors, and variable resistors, adjustable circuits that include combinations of two or more of these components and/or fixed inductors, capacitors, and resistors, or by providing control signals to other adjustable circuitry. Antenna frequency response adjustments may be made in real time in response to information identifying which communications bands are active, in response to feedback related to signal quality or other performance metrics, sensor information, or other information.

FIG. 4 is a schematic diagram of an illustrative adjustable capacitor circuit. Adjustable capacitor 106 of FIG. 4 produces an adjustable amount of capacitance between terminals 114 and 116 in response to control signals provided to input path 108. Switching circuitry 118 has two terminals coupled respectively to capacitors C1 and C2 and has another terminal coupled to terminal 116 of adjustable capacitor 106. Capacitor C1 is coupled between terminal 114 and one of the terminals of switching circuitry 118. Capacitor C2 is coupled between terminal 114 and the other terminal of switching circuitry 118 in parallel with capacitor C1. By controlling the value of the control signals supplied to control input 108, switching circuitry 118 may be configured to produce a desired capacitance value. For example, switching circuitry 118 may be configured to switch capacitor C1 into use or may be configured to switch capacitor C2 into use.

If desired, switching circuitry **118** may include one or more switches or other switching resources that selectively decouple capacitors **C1** and **C2** (e.g., by forming an open circuit so that the path between terminals **114** and **116** is an open circuit and both capacitors are switched out of use). Switching circuitry **118** may also be configured (if desired) so that both capacitors **C1** and **C2** can be simultaneously switched into use. Other types of switching circuitry **118** such as switching circuitry that exhibits fewer switching states or more switching states may be used if desired. Adjustable capacitors such as adjustable capacitor **106** may also be implemented using variable capacitor devices (sometimes referred to as varactors). The configuration of FIG. **4** is merely illustrative.

FIG. **5** is a schematic diagram of adjustable inductor circuitry **110**. In the FIG. **5** example, adjustable inductor circuitry **110** can be adjusted to produce different amounts of inductance between terminals **112** and **124**. Switch **120** is controlled by control signals on control input **112**. When switch **120** is placed in a closed state, inductor **L** is switched into use and adjustable inductor **110** exhibits an inductance **L** between terminals **122** and **124**. When switch **120** is placed in an open state, inductor **L** is switched out of use and adjustable inductor **110** exhibits an essentially infinite amount of inductance between terminals **122** and **124**.

FIG. **6** is a schematic diagram of adjustable inductor circuitry **110** in a configuration in which multiple inductors are used in providing an adjustable amount of inductance. Adjustable inductor circuitry **110** of FIG. **6** can be adjusted to produce different amounts of inductance between terminals **112** and **124** by controlling the state of switching circuitry such as switch **120** (e.g., a single pole double throw switch) using control signals on control input **112**. For example, control signals on path **112** may be used to switch inductor **L1** into use between terminals **122** and **124** while switching inductor **L2** out of use, may be used to switch inductor **L2** into use between terminals **122** and **124** while switching inductor **L1** out of use, may be used to switch both inductors **L1** and **L2** into use in parallel between terminals **122** and **124**, or may be used to switch both inductors **L1** and **L2** out of use. The switching circuitry arrangement of adjustable inductor **110** of FIG. **6** is therefore able to produce one or more different inductance values, two or more different inductance values, three or more different inductance values, or, if desired, four different inductance values (e.g., **L1**, **L2**, **L1** and **L2** in parallel, or infinite inductance when **L1** and **L2** are switched out of use simultaneously).

FIG. **7** is a diagram of an illustrative antenna of the type that may be implemented using conductive housing structures in electronic device **10**. As shown in FIG. **7**, dual arm inverted-F antenna resonating element **50** may be formed from portions of peripheral conductive housing structures **16**. In particular, resonating element arm portion **102** for producing an antenna response in a high band (HB) frequency range and resonating element arm portion **100** for producing an antenna response in a low band (LB) frequency range may be formed from respective portions of peripheral conductive housing structures **16**. Antenna ground **52** may be formed from sheet metal (e.g., one or more housing midplate members and/or a rear housing wall in housing **12**), may be formed from portions of printed circuits, may be formed from conductive device components, or may be formed from other metal portions of device **10**.

Antenna **40** may be fed by an antenna feed coupled in feed path **104**. Feed path **104** may include an antenna feed formed from antenna feed terminals such as positive antenna feed terminal **94** and ground antenna feed terminal **96**. Transmis-

sion line **92** (FIG. **3**) may have a positive signal line coupled to terminal **94** and a ground signal line coupled to terminal **96**. Impedance matching circuits such as matching circuit **130** and other circuitry (e.g., filters, switches, etc.) may be incorporated into feed path **104** or transmission line **92** if desired).

Slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element **54** is formed from slot **132**. Slot **132** is surrounded by conductive structures such as metal housing structures **16** and other housing structures **12** (e.g., metal parts that form antenna ground **52**), printed circuit traces, and electrical components and is filled with dielectric (e.g., air, plastic, glass, and/or other dielectric materials). Inner edge **134** of slot **132** may, for example, be formed from portions of antenna ground **52**. Outer edge **136** of slot **132** may be formed from portions of peripheral conductive housing structures **16** (e.g., portions of resonating element arm **100**).

As shown in FIG. **7**, slot **132** has an elongated shape in which its width (i.e., the distance between edges **134** and **136**) is substantially less than its length. Dashed line **142** shows how slot **132** extends from closed slot end **138** where slot **132** is bordered by conductive portions of antenna ground **52** to open slot end **140** where slot **132** is open to surrounding dielectric. With this type of configuration, slot **132** is characterized by bend **144** where slot **132** wraps around corner **144** of device **10** and is characterized by bend **146** where slot **132** departs from the periphery of device **10** and extends between opposing edges of antenna ground **52** towards closed end **138**.

The length of slot **132**, which affects the resonant frequency associated with slot **132**, may be about 1-5 cm (as examples). With one suitable arrangement, the length of slot **132** is selected to create a resonant peak for slot **132** at about 3.5 GHz. This peak is located at a higher frequency range than typically desired for wireless communications in device **10**. However, in the presence of adjustable capacitor **106** bridging slot **132** between peripheral conductive housing structures **16** and antenna ground **52**, the resonant peak associated with parasitic resonating element slot **132** is shifted from 3.5 GHz to lower frequencies (e.g., frequencies in the range of about 2300 MHz to 2700 MHz). Adjustable capacitor **106** can be adjusted to tune the resonant frequency of the slot-based parasitic resonating element so that antenna **40** covers all frequencies of interest in the vicinity of the shifted resonance from slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element **54**. Adjustable inductor **110** affects primarily low band performance for antenna **40** and can be adjusted to ensure that antenna **40** covers all low band frequencies of interest.

The presence of slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element **54** may help spatially distribute radio-frequency energy across the entire width of device **10** during operation of device **10** at high band frequencies. Spatially distributing radio-frequency signals in this way may help ensure that device **10** complies with regulatory limits on emitted radiation levels. In the absence of element **54**, emitted energy at high frequencies may be concentrated in the vicinity of high band resonating element arm **102**. In the presence of slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element **54**, energy tends to be concentrated near arm **102** at lower high band frequencies and at element **54** at higher high band frequencies, so that emitted energy is distributed across the width of device **10** when averaged over high band frequencies.

FIG. **8** is a graph in which antenna performance (i.e., standing wave ratio SWR) has been plotted as a function of operating frequency **f**. As shown in FIG. **8**, antenna **40** may exhibit resonance **200**. Slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element **54** may produce a resonant contribution at a relatively high frequency (e.g. 3.5 GHz). When adjustable capacitor **106** bridges slot **54** to couple edge **134** of antenna ground **52**

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to arm **100** (i.e., when arm **100** is coupled to ground **52** by adjustable capacitor **106**), the resonance from slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element **54** may be shifted to the position shown in FIG. **8** (e.g., a position such as position **200** that covers frequencies such as frequencies from 2500 MHz to 2700 MHz for supporting operations in communications bands such as Long Term Evolution (LTE) band **38**). In this position, capacitor **106** may exhibit a first capacitance (e.g., a capacitance **C1** of 0.6 pF).

When it is desired to operate at lower frequencies such as frequencies associated with resonant peak position **202** of FIG. **8** (e.g., frequencies such as frequencies from 2300 MHz to 2500 MHz to cover communications bands such as LTE band **40**), adjustable capacitor **106** may be adjusted to exhibit a second capacitance (e.g., a capacitance **C2** of 0.8 pF). When capacitor **106** is adjusted to produce a capacitance of 0.8 pF (in this example), resonant peak **200** shifts to the position of resonant peak **202**. Adjustable capacitor **106** therefore provides sufficient tuning to allow the slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element resonance from slot **54** to cover a range of frequencies from about 2300 MHz to about 2700 MHz (in this example).

High band resonance HB (e.g., frequencies from about 1710 MHz to 2000 MHz) may be covered by an antenna resonance contribution produced by high band arm **102** of antenna **40**. Low band arm **100** may produce a resonance that is used in covering low band frequencies LB. Adjustable inductor **110** is coupled across gap **101** between low band resonating element arm **100** and antenna ground **52**. The value of inductance produced by an adjustable inductor that bridges gap **101** such as adjustable inductor **110** is used in tuning antenna **40** in low band LB.

In the illustrative arrangement of FIG. **8**, inductor **110** is being adjusted between three different states each associated with a different corresponding inductance value. Inductor **110** may be, for example, an adjustable inductor of the type shown in FIG. **6** in which **L1** has a value of 12 nH and in which **L2** has a value of 51 nH.

When switching circuitry **120** of FIG. **6** is placed in a position in which **L1** and **L2** are both switched into use in parallel, the inductance of inductor **110** will be about 10 nH. In this situation, antenna **40** (e.g., arm **100**) will produce resonance peak **208**. When switching circuitry **120** of FIG. **6** is placed in a configuration in which **L2** is switched into use and **L1** is switched out of use, inductor **110** will exhibit an inductance of about 51 nH and antenna **40** will produce resonance peak **206** (which is peak **208** shifted to a lower frequency). Switching circuitry **120** of FIG. **6** can also be adjusted so that both inductors **L1** and **L2** are switched out of use. In this situation, the inductance of inductor **110** will be high (effectively infinite) and antenna **40** will exhibit resonance peak **204** (which is peak **206** shifted to a lower frequency). The ability to tune the antenna resonance exhibited by low band antenna resonating element arm **100** allows antenna **40** to cover all desired frequencies of interest in low band LB (e.g., all frequencies of interest from about 700 MHz to about 960 MHz, as an example).

In situations in which it is not desired to cover communications frequencies in the range of 2300 to 2700 MHz, slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element **54** may be omitted from antenna **40**, as shown in FIG. **9**. In this configuration, antenna **40** may exhibit the resonances of low band LB and high band HB that are shown in FIG. **8** without exhibiting resonances **200** and **202** associated with slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element **54**.

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The foregoing is merely illustrative of the principles of this invention and various modifications can be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic device antenna, comprising:
an antenna ground;

an inverted-F antenna resonating element that has a resonating element arm that is separated from the antenna ground by a gap, wherein the inverted-F antenna resonating element comprises a metal electronic device housing structure;

a slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element that is near-field coupled to the inverted-F antenna resonating element and that comprises a slot having a first edge defined by the metal device housing structure and an opposing second edge defined by the antenna ground; and

an antenna feed having a positive antenna feed terminal coupled to the inverted-F antenna resonating element and a ground antenna feed terminal coupled to the antenna ground, wherein the slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element is not directly fed by the antenna feed.

2. The electronic device antenna defined in claim 1 wherein the inverted-F antenna resonating element has an additional resonating element arm.

3. The electronic device antenna defined in claim 1 wherein the slot has a portion that is interposed between the metal electronic device housing structure and the antenna ground.

4. The electronic device antenna defined in claim 3 further comprising a capacitor that bridges the slot.

5. The electronic device antenna defined in claim 4 wherein the capacitor comprises an adjustable capacitor.

6. The electronic device antenna defined in claim 5 wherein the capacitor comprises switching circuitry and multiple fixed capacitors coupled to the switching circuitry.

7. The electronic device antenna defined in claim 6 further comprising an adjustable inductor that bridges the slot of the slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element.

8. The electronic device antenna defined in claim 7 wherein the adjustable inductor is adjusted to tune a first antenna resonance at a first frequency and wherein the adjustable capacitor is adjusted to tune a second antenna resonance at a second frequency that is greater than the first frequency.

9. The electronic device antenna defined in claim 8 further comprising a short circuit path coupled between the resonating element arm and the antenna ground across the gap.

10. The electronic device defined in claim 1 further comprising an adjustable inductor and an adjustable capacitor.

11. The electronic device defined in claim 1 further comprising an adjustable inductor coupled between the resonating element arm and the antenna ground across the slot of the slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element.

12. The electronic device defined in claim 11 further comprising a short circuit path coupled between the resonating element arm and the antenna ground across the gap.

13. The electronic device defined in claim 12 wherein the antenna feed is coupled between the resonating element arm and the antenna ground in parallel with the short circuit path.

14. An antenna, comprising:

an antenna ground;

an inverted-F antenna resonating element that is separated from the antenna ground by a gap; and

a slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element having a slot with an open slot end that is formed between the antenna ground and the inverted-F antenna resonating

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element and a closed slot end that opposes the open slot end, wherein the closed slot end is surrounded on at least three sides by the antenna ground.

15. The antenna defined in claim 14 further comprising a capacitor that bridges the slot.

16. The antenna defined in claim 15 wherein the capacitor comprises an adjustable capacitor.

17. The antenna defined in claim 16 further comprising an adjustable inductor coupled across the gap between the inverted-F antenna resonating element and the antenna ground.

18. The antenna defined in claim 17 wherein the inverted-F antenna resonating element comprises a dual arm inverted-F antenna resonating element formed from a portion of a peripheral conductive electronic device housing structure.

19. An antenna, comprising:

a dual arm inverted-F antenna resonating element formed from a metal electronic device housing structure;

an antenna ground that is separated from the dual arm inverted-F antenna resonating element by a gap;

a short circuit branch coupled between the dual arm inverted-F antenna resonating element and the antenna ground across the gap;

an antenna feed coupled between the dual arm inverted-F antenna resonating element and the antenna ground across the gap, wherein the dual arm inverted-F antenna resonating element has a low band arm and a high band arm extending from opposing sides of the antenna feed;

a slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element having a slot, wherein the low band arm resonates in a first frequency band, the high band arm resonates in a second frequency band that is greater than the first frequency band, and the slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element resonates in a third frequency band that is greater than the second frequency band; and

an adjustable inductor coupled between the low band arm and the antenna ground that bridges the slot and that is configured to adjust the first frequency band in which the low band arm resonates.

20. The antenna defined in claim 19 further comprising an adjustable capacitor that is coupled between the low band arm and the antenna ground to bridge the slot and that is config-

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ured to adjust the third frequency band in which the slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element resonates.

21. The antenna defined in claim 20 wherein the slot has a portion with a first edge that is formed from the antenna ground and a second edge that is formed from the metal electronic device housing structure.

22. The antenna defined in claim 14, further comprising: an antenna feed having a positive antenna feed terminal coupled to the inverted-F antenna resonating element at a feed location and having a ground antenna feed terminal coupled to the antenna ground, wherein the inverted-F antenna resonating element has first and second arms that extend from opposing sides of the feed location, and the feed location is interposed between the first arm and the open slot end.

23. The electronic device antenna defined in claim 2, wherein the antenna resonating element arm resonates in a first frequency band, the additional antenna resonating element arm resonates in a second frequency band that is greater than the first frequency band, the slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element is interposed between the antenna ground and the antenna resonating element arm, and the slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element resonates in a third frequency band that is greater than the second frequency band.

24. The electronic device defined in claim 23, further comprising:

an adjustable capacitor coupled between the antenna resonating element arm and the antenna ground across the slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element, wherein the adjustable capacitor has first and second configurations, the slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element resonates in the third frequency band while the adjustable capacitor is in the first configuration, and the slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element resonates in a fourth frequency band that is greater than the third frequency band while the adjustable capacitor is in the second configuration.

25. The antenna defined in claim 20, wherein the slot of the slot-based parasitic antenna resonating element is interposed between the low band arm and the antenna ground.

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